

3 Held as Outboard Buccaneers In \$28,836 Freedomland Foray

Three men were arrested yesterday and charged with taking \$28,836 from Freedomland Aug. 27 in a robbery reminiscent of the days of piracy.

All that was missing from the sea-and-land foray, according to the police, was the traditional buccaneers' skull-and-crossbones flag. This was their description of the crime:

The robbers stole a sixteen-foot outboard motorboat from a City Island dock on Aug. 25, chugged through Eastchester Bay into the Hutchinson River and Mill Creek near the northeastern end of the Bronx amusement park. There they beached the boat.

They returned by land two nights later, wearing stocking masks and armed with an automatic pistol and two shotguns. They forced Edward Chelli, a Freedomland laborer, to help them enter the cash-control building.

Inside the building, they found

Clifford Birschner, the head cashier, and two other employees, Anthony Robertson and Edward Semeonin, counting the night's receipts. They herded the four Freedomland employees into a vault, took the \$28,836 and went back to their boat.

The men, who thought the police would not suspect a getaway by water, went up the Hutchinson River to the Boston Post Road, where they abandoned the stolen craft. They got into a car owned by Caesar Olivo, 36 years old, of 1950 Edison Avenue, the Bronx, named by the police as one of the robbers, and escaped. The following day, they threw the two shotguns into Westchester Creek, near Tremont Avenue.

This account was given by detectives after they had taken the three suspects into custody. Those arrested, in addition to Olivo, were Richard Hegenauer,

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3 HELD IN PIRACY AT FREEDOMLAND

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25, of 432 Zerega Avenue, and Anthony Esposito, 25, of 344 Swinton Avenue, both the Bronx.

The three men were charged with assault, robbery and violation of the Sullivan Law. All have police records. Olivo was sentenced to three years and Hegenauer to one year, both for grand larceny. Esposito was found guilty of grand larceny as a youthful offender.

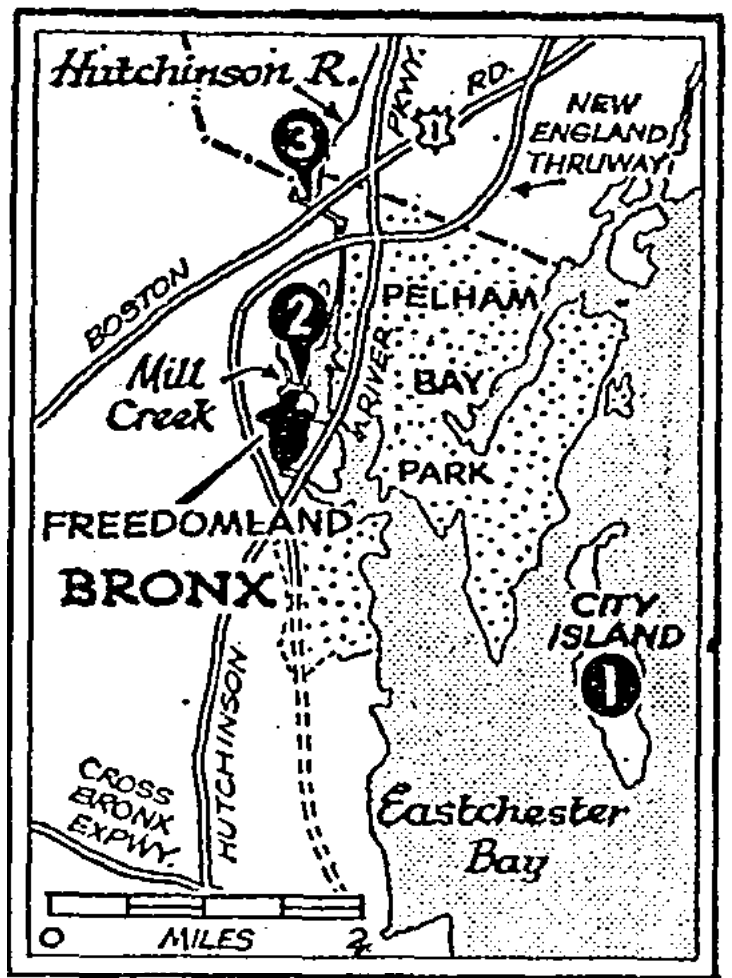
After the robbery, the police checked all of the 2,000 present and former employes of Freedomland. They learned that Hegenauer had worked there as a carpenter, followed him for several days and saw him meet Olivo and Esposito.

Yesterday morning detectives went to Hegenauer's home. They found \$3,000 in a plastic bag hidden under stones at the bottom of a tropical fish tank and \$2,393 in the upholstery of a kitchen chair. The bills taken from the tank were water-soaked and were later stuck against the walls of the Benedict Avenue police station to dry.

The detectives found \$8,840 in a canvas bag on a closet shelf in Olivo's home. Only \$420 was found in Esposito's home, the rest of his loot having been lost in gambling, according to the police. Three rifles and a loaded automatic were found in the three apartments.

The total money recovered was \$14,653.

A search of Westchester Creek for the two shotguns is scheduled to be made by the police today.



The New York Times Sept. 12, 1960

BY SEA: Robbers stole boat at 1, took it to Mill Creek (2) for hold-up, then to highway (3) for escape by auto on Boston Road.